

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 are now in the application. Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 are subject to examination. Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103" on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 4-8 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,158,953 to Demello et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,477,415 to Mitcham et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants request entry of the amendments after final. The limitations of claim 6 have been placed into claims 4 and 7. The wording in claims 4 and 7 has been changed slightly, although no additional limitations have been placed therein. Additional support, although not deemed necessary, may be found by referring to page 5, lines 13-16 of the specification and to the drawing figure.

Claim 4 now includes, inter alia, the following limitations: a chip card having a non-volatile memory and a microcontroller; and when said chip card is connected to said loading station, said microcontroller identifying a user for a service provider on the Internet before downloading data from the Internet and storing the data in said memory.

Claim 7 includes steps of, inter alia: providing a chip card having a non-volatile memory and a microcontroller; and with the microcontroller, performing an identification of a user for a service provider on the Internet.

Demello et al. merely disclose a computer 20 that includes computer readable storage media, which is implemented as a magnetic disk in the preferred embodiment. The computer readable storage media, however, may also be implemented as a flash memory card (column 7, lines 24-47).

Demello et al. do not teach a chip card that includes a memory and a microcontroller, wherein the microcontroller of the chip card identifies a user for a service provider on the Internet. The flash memory card disclosed by Demello et al. does not include a microcontroller. Additionally, the material at column 11, lines 36-50, which has been cited by the Examiner, teaches validating an activation certificate. A microcontroller of a chip card, which has a memory in which the downloaded data will be stored, does not validate this activation certificate. Rather, a license server module 77, which is a subcomponent of a download server ASAPI extension DLL 78, validates the activation certificate of the user.

Mitcham et al. also do not teach the limitations of claims 4 and 7 discussed above. Mitcham et al. merely teaches an automatic computer docking station for portable computers, like notebooks. Mitcham et al. do not teach or suggest

a loading station that is suitable for receiving a chip card that includes a microcontroller.

Additionally, nothing in the disclosure of Mitcham et al. discloses or suggests a chip card including a non-volatile memory and a microcontroller. Mitcham et al. also do not disclose or suggest a user identification using a microcontroller incorporated in a chip card. Furthermore, the teaching in Mitcham et al. is not in any way related to performing a user identification before downloading data from the internet.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 4 or 7. Claims 4 and 7 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 4 or 7.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

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Reply to Office Action of December 27, 2007

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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MPW:cgm

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